

TERMS:
Single Subscribers, \$1.50 per annum.
To clubs of 5 and upwards, \$1.00 each;
and invariably in advance.
No paper will be sent longer than the time for
which it has been paid; and no paper sent unless
the cash accompanies the order.

GRAND DIVISION PROCEEDINGS.

CHARLOTTE, Oct. 23, 1855.
The Annual Meeting of the Grand
Division, Sons of Temperance, of North
Carolina, commenced its sessions in this
Town, this evening at 7 o'clock, pur-
suant to adjournment.

Officers present:
DANIEL S. HILL, G. W. P.;
A. M. GORMAN, G. Scribe;
W. M. JOHNSON, G. T.

The vacant offices were filled by ap-
pointment from the chair, as follows:
RICH'D. STERLING, G. W. A.;
Rev. G. B. WETMORE, G. Chap.;
J. G. AREY, G. Con.;
P. J. LOWRIE, G. Sen.

The Grand Division was then open-
ed in due form.

Reps. Johnson, McPherson and Whit-
taker were appointed a Committee to
examine the Credentials of Representa-
tives, who subsequently reported as
correct, the following:

[The list will be published in full in
the pamphlet proceedings, but it is
deemed unnecessary to insert them
here.]

Representatives in attendance who
had not been inducted into this branch
of our Order, were introduced and du-
ly initiated.

Arrangements for public speaking
during the sittings of the Grand Divi-
sion were then entered into.

The following amendment to the By-
Laws of the Grand Division (1st sec.
of Art. I.), submitted at the last An-
nual Session, and laid over, under the
Rule, was then taken up and adopted,
viz:

"The Annual Sessions of this Grand
Division shall be held at such times
and places as the majority at each an-
nual session may determine."

On motion it was
Resolved, That the Representatives from this
Grand Division to the National Division, be in-
structed to make application for a Dispensation, em-
powering the Grand Division of North Carolina to hold
its Annual Sessions in the months of October, No-
vember or December, as they may from time to
time determine.

The G. D. then adjourned till to-
morrow morning.

CHARLOTTE, Oct. 24, 1855.

G. D. met pursuant to adjournment.
Officers as at last evening session,
except P. G. W. P. Blackmer now oc-
cupies the P. G. W. P.'s chair.

Minutes of previous session read and
approved.

The Committee on Credentials made
further report.

On motion it was
Resolved, That the times for assembling and ad-
journing of this meeting of the G. D., be as follows:
Meet at 9 A. M.; take recess at 1 P. M.
2 P. M.; 4 P. M.; 6 P. M.

The G. W. P. then submitted his
Annual Communication, which is as
follows:

GRAND WORTHY PATRIARCH'S REPORT.

Representatives to the Grand Divi-
sion of North Carolina:

WORTHY BROTHERS: In accordance
with the duties devolved upon me as
your G. W. P., I submit for your con-
sideration my annual report of the
state of the Order, within my jurisdic-
tion, for the Patriarchal year just
closed.

And first it becomes us, Brothers, to
render the tribute of praise and thank-
sgiving to Almighty God for his mer-
cies and blessings during the year that
is past. Our land is smiling with plen-
teous harvests, the toil of the husband-
man has been amply rewarded—the la-
bor of the artisan and of all classes
meet with full and adequate compensa-
tion. And while the scythe of death
has mowed down as grass, hundreds
and thousands of its victims in our sis-
ter States, our own beloved land has
been preserved from the pestilence that
walketh in darkness, and the destruc-
tion that wasteth at noonday. These
blessings and mercies so unmerited by
us, and yet so richly and bountifully
bestowed, call upon us to unite in de-
vout gratitude to our merciful and kind
Benefactor, for the abundant health
and prosperity with which he has blessed
us, and to beseech Him, to vouchsafe
His blessings upon our present assem-
bling, that it may redound to His glory,
and the advancement of the noble cause
in which we are engaged.

We meet here, Brothers, in this hos-
pitable and flourishing Town, for no
purpose of earthly aggrandizement.—
We are not here, as Partisans to ar-
range campaigns for political conflict.
We are not here as sectarians, to ad-
vance the interests of this, or of that
church. But we come from every part
of our beloved State, men of all parties,
and of all religious sects, united upon
the glorious platform of Temperance—
a platform broad enough and strong
enough to sustain the good and the vir-
tuous of every party and of every sect,
to interchange the greetings of an ex-
alted friendship, to examine the work
of the Order within our jurisdiction,
and to counsel and advise with each
other as to the means best adapted to
advance its interests. Notwithstand-

Spirit of the Age.

Devoted to Temperance, Literature and General Information.

VOL. VII.

RALEIGH, N. C., NOVEMBER 7, 1855.

NO. 10.

ing the very marked and perceptible
change that has been effected through
the agency of our Order on the public
mind, in favor of the legal restriction
and prohibition of the liquor traffic in
this State—the Grand Scribe's returns,
which will be read to you by that offi-
cer, will show a slight decline in our
numerical strength, but from an exami-
nation of the returns for the last Quar-
ter, I am happy to state that the Or-
der is now decidedly on the increase.

Various causes contributed to the
diminution of our numbers in the early
part of the year. Some of which I pro-
pose briefly to notice.

And first among these causes is the
pruning process that our Subordinate
Divisions have undergone and continue
to undergo from the recent very proper
amendment in their constitution, by
which the revenues of the Grand Divi-
sion are derived from a per capita
taxation on the members, instead of the
five per cent on the receipts as former-
ly—thereby causing indolent and non-
paying members to be cut off, as Divi-
sions were unwilling to pay the per ca-
pitax on members who contributed nothing
to their revenues.

We have lost members from our Or-
der who resigned their membership,
not because of any disaffection towards
the great principles of our organiza-
tion, but from the inconvenience of at-
tending and keeping up the regular
meetings of Divisions, in sparsely set-
tled neighborhoods, but whose moral
influence is still with us. We have lost
others whose names have been enrolled
on the books of the Recording Scribe,
but whose hearts were never with us
in the work. Others who not having
counted the costs before joining us, as
soon as the excitement under which
they joined us had passed off, and the
novelty of their initiation, when the
storm of opposition arose—not having
the moral courage to "face the music,"
went out from us, for they were not of
us. Their weakness was a constant
source of apprehension to the members
and their indifference a perpetual clog
to our progress. They are the dead
weights that destroy the buoyancy of
our order.

But Brothers, these things should
not discourage us,—on the contrary
they should have the effect of nerving
us for a more determined and vigorous
effort. We have had our seasons of
victory and triumph, and these appear-
ent reverses. We must expect in our
progress in this great moral revolution,
the great law of action and reaction
to prevail alike in the moral as physi-
cal world. As the grain is checked in
its growth by the cold storm, it gathers
strength to put forth a more vigorous
shoot and a more abundant harvest.
Under this law, the sick man is re-
stored to vigorous health—cold and
heat, summer and winter are adapted
to our physical condition, by the same
great law. In like manner the plan-
ets are accelerated and retarded in
their annual journeyings around their
great source of light and heat.—Moral
Reforms have ever been governed by
the same great law—the moral naves
require relaxation—under this relaxa-
tion they gather power and strength
for more vigorous and effective efforts.
This law is written upon all great Re-
forms, both in the church and State.
The history of the great Temperance
Reform of the nineteenth century,
forms no exception. How many re-
verses, have for the time being, blasted
the hopes and blighted the prospects of
the friends of Temperance in other
States, but in their darkest hours, when
the pall of midnight seemed to lower
over their prospects, an unseen power
was at work—and lo! the bow of prom-
ise spanned the heavens, auguring
the glorious success awaiting their ef-
forts. In virtue and morality there is
a recuperative energy, tremendous—
irresistible. You may throw a dyke
across the mighty river, and dream
that its current is arrested; but its
waters are only accumulating—gath-
ering strength and power to bear down
every obstacle, and rush onward with
a resistless and overwhelming tide to
ocean home. How high then, must
those who would arrest the progress of
this blessed work raise their barrier?
until it reaches the Heavens—aye,
until it overtops the throne of God,
for God himself is its author.

I have no hesitation in announcing
to you, from the reports I have received
during the year from my D. G. Wor-
thy Patriarchs, that the cause of Pro-
hibition is stronger to-day in North
Carolina in the hearts of her people,
than it has ever been. Hitherto its
friends were to be found, mainly, if not
altogether, among the members of our
Order, and even in our Divisions it
has heretofore been regarded as an open
question. But now it has become a
fixed fact in the mind of every true
Son of Temperance, that the finality of
our mission—the great object to which
our efforts should be directed, is the
utter extermination of the manufacture
and traffic in intoxicating liquors, as
well as its use, as a beverage. And
wherever this question of legal probi-

bition has been properly presented be-
fore the people, it has taken strong
hold upon the public mind, and thou-
sands who are not members of our
organization are rallying to its stan-
dard.

Our Order, it must be admitted by
every one—is now the cynosure of
the world in this great moral enterprise.
There is no other Temperance organi-
zation so well adapted to all classes and
conditions of society, as our beloved in-
stitution, and upon it the hopes of the
patriots and philanthropists are directed,
as the most effective in arresting the
tide of intemperance—this scourge of
our race—that is laying waste our beau-
tiful earth, sparing neither age nor
sex nor condition in its devastating
course.

It becomes us therefore Brothers, to
consider and devise the means best
adapted to the enlightenment of the
public mind upon the great principles
of our organization and the question of
prohibition, without which a stringent
prohibitory law would be of but little
avail. For while we look to this law as
the consummation of our hopes, of
what avail would be the law, dependent,
necessarily as such a law must be upon
public sentiment for its enforcement,
unless the public mind be enlightened
to sustain and enforce it.

And first I would recommend the cir-
culation of approved Temperance Tracts
and Newspapers throughout the State, as
most efficient auxiliaries in this noble work.—
These silent and unpretending messengers
of light and knowledge can be scattered
broadcast over the State, at a cost com-
paratively trifling; they will reach every
cabin and every heart, and will be read
in the hands of every voter in North
Carolina, that I really feel that I should
do violence to the charitable maxim, "de
mortuis nil nisi bonum," were I to com-
ment on it. Let it rest in its grave with-
out hope of resurrection.

The last session of the National Division,
was held, as you are aware, at the city
of Charleston, South Carolina, in the
month of June last. This Grand Division
was represented by P. G. W. P. Weir's
and Deems and your G. W. P.

It was a most pleasant and harmonious
assemblage of kindred spirits from every
part of this vast continent, united heart
and soul in one great purpose.

For a knowledge of the acts of that body,
I refer you to the journal of the session
which has been published and distributed
to Subordinate Divisions. There was one
subject acted upon at that session, to which
I deem it my duty to call your attention.
I refer to the change made in the 5th
and 6th Articles of the Constitution of Sub-
ordinate Divisions—striking out the sections
in those articles fixing the minimum of in-
itiation fees, weekly dues and benefits,
and leaving them to be regulated by the By-
laws of Subordinate Divisions.

While opposed in the main, to frequent
changes in our organic law, as having a
mischievous and disturbing effect upon
the work of the order, yet I believe this change
was necessary and proper, as Divisions have
frequently been embarrassed in their fi-
nances by this system. I had received
reports from Divisions in this State
asking for the change previous to the meet-
ing of the National Division.

I would therefore submit to your con-
sideration the propriety of recommending to
Subordinate Divisions, that the system of
benefits (except in cases requiring our
charity) be dispensed with altogether, and
that the funds of the Division which would
be otherwise bestowed upon benefits, be
appropriated towards the purchase of a li-
brary of standard Temperance, and other
useful books, for the use of its members.

In this way permanent and lasting good
will be stored with useful temperance
knowledge, and confirmed in the principles
of the Order.

For a full detail of the finances and sta-
tistics of the Order during the past year,
as well as of the finances of the Grand Divi-
sion, I refer you to the Reports of the
Grand Scribe and Grand Treasurer, which
will be read to you by those officers.

I have then, Brothers, brought to your
notice, as fully as the limits of this
Report would allow, the business that will
claim your attention during the present
session.

In entering upon the duties of the office
which your partiality conferred upon me,
and which had been so ably filled by my
worthy predecessors, I felt an oppressive
sense of my own inability to meet your
reasonable expectations. But the fidelity
with which my deputies and the officers of
the G. D. have discharged their duties, has
relieved me from much anxious care and
secured for themselves my lasting regard.

May our Order continue to exercise its
saving influence wherever intemperance
prevails. May it become the honored in-
strument in suppressing the traffic in in-
toxicating liquors, and our banner soon
wave in triumph over our good old State,
redeemed from the thralldom and wither-
ing curse of this destroyer of millions.

admission, may be realized also within our
own jurisdiction.

At the last session of the Grand Divi-
sion, a committee was appointed, to petition
the Legislature of North Carolina, then
soon to assemble, to pass a law giving the
privilege to the voters in each school or
civil district, to say whether intoxicating
liquors should be sold in said district in
any quantities.

The committee faithfully and promptly
discharged their duty, and in obedience to
the instructions of the Grand Division,
presented the memorial to the Legislature.
That memorial together with numerous
others upon the same subject, from thou-
sands of the best citizens of the State, was
referred to the Committee on Propositions
and Grievances.

That committee reported against any legi-
slation of the character prayed for,—charg-
ed the memorialists "with mistaken zeal
and fanaticism,"—and argued—if argu-
ment it might be called, "that the Legis-
lature possessed no constitutional power to
interdict by pains and penalties the traffic
in ardent spirits."

That report has been so ably reviewed, so
successfully answered, and so completely
annihilated by the keen logic, the cutting
satire, withering sarcasm and irresistible
arguments of the "Picked Rod" letters,
(which we have all read and admired) and
which Temperance men should see are
placed in the hands of every voter in North
Carolina, that I really feel that I should
do violence to the charitable maxim, "de
mortuis nil nisi bonum," were I to com-
ment on it. Let it rest in its grave with-
out hope of resurrection.

The last session of the National Division,
was held, as you are aware, at the city
of Charleston, South Carolina, in the
month of June last. This Grand Division
was represented by P. G. W. P. Weir's
and Deems and your G. W. P.

It was a most pleasant and harmonious
assemblage of kindred spirits from every
part of this vast continent, united heart
and soul in one great purpose.

For a knowledge of the acts of that body,
I refer you to the journal of the session
which has been published and distributed
to Subordinate Divisions. There was one
subject acted upon at that session, to which
I deem it my duty to call your attention.
I refer to the change made in the 5th
and 6th Articles of the Constitution of Sub-
ordinate Divisions—striking out the sections
in those articles fixing the minimum of in-
itiation fees, weekly dues and benefits,
and leaving them to be regulated by the By-
laws of Subordinate Divisions.

While opposed in the main, to frequent
changes in our organic law, as having a
mischievous and disturbing effect upon
the work of the order, yet I believe this change
was necessary and proper, as Divisions have
frequently been embarrassed in their fi-
nances by this system. I had received
reports from Divisions in this State
asking for the change previous to the meet-
ing of the National Division.

I would therefore submit to your con-
sideration the propriety of recommending to
Subordinate Divisions, that the system of
benefits (except in cases requiring our
charity) be dispensed with altogether, and
that the funds of the Division which would
be otherwise bestowed upon benefits, be
appropriated towards the purchase of a li-
brary of standard Temperance, and other
useful books, for the use of its members.

In this way permanent and lasting good
will be stored with useful temperance
knowledge, and confirmed in the principles
of the Order.

For a full detail of the finances and sta-
tistics of the Order during the past year,
as well as of the finances of the Grand Divi-
sion, I refer you to the Reports of the
Grand Scribe and Grand Treasurer, which
will be read to you by those officers.

I have then, Brothers, brought to your
notice, as fully as the limits of this
Report would allow, the business that will
claim your attention during the present
session.

In entering upon the duties of the office
which your partiality conferred upon me,
and which had been so ably filled by my
worthy predecessors, I felt an oppressive
sense of my own inability to meet your
reasonable expectations. But the fidelity
with which my deputies and the officers of
the G. D. have discharged their duties, has
relieved me from much anxious care and
secured for themselves my lasting regard.

May our Order continue to exercise its
saving influence wherever intemperance
prevails. May it become the honored in-
strument in suppressing the traffic in in-
toxicating liquors, and our banner soon
wave in triumph over our good old State,
redeemed from the thralldom and wither-
ing curse of this destroyer of millions.

DAN'L S. HILL, G. W. P.

The following Reports from the G.

Scribe and G. Treasurer were read:

REPORT OF THE G. SCRIBE.

To the G. Division S. of T. of N. C.

G. W. PATRIARCH AND BROTHERS:

In meeting again in annual session,
while we have cause to deplore the
lethargy and supineness that to too great
an extent pervades our ranks, we may
at the same time congratulate ourselves
that our cause has been entirely
overwhelmed by the demagoguism and
falsehoods of our enemies, or the treach-
ery of professed friends. By the for-
mer, misrepresentation and abuse has
been heaped upon us, prejudicing the
unwary, inciting distrust and alarm
among the ignorant, and arraying a
large class of liberal minded citizens
against us, because of misunderstanding
our position. Politicians have car-
ped, interest and appetite have raised
false alarms, and the profligate and li-

centions have more than ever traduced
and vilified our purposes and objects.

By the desertion and treachery of
false friends, the faith of many true
men has waned, their influence and en-
ergy have been chilled, and they have
shrunk from the post of duty, if not
discomfited, at least disheartened and
discouraged.

But we have reason to rejoice that
at this moment there is more of interest
and energy in our Order than has been
manifest during the past year. Many
Divisions have been revived, quite a
number have received large accessions
and are extending a happy influence in
their respective communities, and 22
new Divisions have been chartered since
our last convocation. Our member-
ship is not as large as twelve months
ago, but we think much more reliable
and determined to pursue the great
and sublime principles of our beneficent
Order.

In my humble judgment, the friends
of Temperance have, for the last two
or three years, labored too much to at-
tain an end, while they have neglected
the means to accomplish that end.—
The cause of Temperance cannot be
sustained, except through a well organ-
ized and efficient Association. Our
advancements and progress can only
be maintained, through such. The
organization of the Sons of Temperance
is the heavenly key which we hope to
leaven the mass of society. Its objects
must therefore be actively and vigor-
ously supported—the Divisions must
be fostered and perpetuated—we must
have a regular army to do the scouting
and skirmishing, preparatory to the
great engagement with the common
enemy.

This important consideration
has of late been too much overlooked,
and disastrous consequences have re-
sulted. Let us gather wisdom from the
past—let us here, upon the consecrated
Altar of Love, Purity and Fidelity,
pledge ourselves anew to the great
work of Temperance and Philanthropy,
and go out with renewed energy to
build up our beloved Order, and snatch
our fellow-men from the greedy jaws
of the all-pervading destroyer—Intem-
perance.

There are on the books of this office
about 185 Divisions which continue to
forward their Returns and Per Centage
to the Grand Division. The following
summary will show the condition and
operations of the Subordinates during
the past year, viz:

Up to 1st January last.—No. ad-
mitted during previous year 1,068;
suspended 261; expelled 870; deaths
78; violated pledge 779; reinstated
175; violated 2d time 126; contribu-
tions members 6,858; cash received by
sub. divs. \$10,930; paid for benefits
\$4,172; public meetings 149; tracts
and papers gratuitously distributed,
18,934; per centage to G. D. \$1,268;
reps. to G. D. 1,019; reps. to N. D.
7; per centage paid N. D. \$63.40.

Since 1st of January last.—The
Returns show that since 1st January
last there have been admitted into the
Subordinate Divisions 1,503; suspend-
ed 166; expelled 212; deaths 64; No.
of members 6,093; receipts in sub.
Divs. 5,916; paid for benefits 2,069;
public meetings held 176; tracts and
papers gratuitously distributed 17,402.

The Returns for the Quarter ending
Oct. 1st, are not all in, so that it is im-
possible to give a perfect account of
the condition of the Order up to date.

Presuming that the G. W. P. will
give all information concerning the ac-
tion of the National Division, and all
other matters calling for your atten-
tion, I leave all suggestions and further
recommendations to be made by that
officer.

The Financial condition of the Grand
Division, though somewhat reduced
from last Report, I am happy to say is
sound and solvent, as will be seen by
the Report of the Grand Treasurer.

Every debt against the G. D. has been
paid, so that it is not in debt a dollar,
leaving a small sum in the Treasury.

Fraternally submitted in L. P. & F.

A. M. GORMAN, G. S.

Raleigh, October 20, '55.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE G. SCRIBE.

In conformity with the requirements of the

By Laws of the Grand Division, I here submit

my Report of the amount of Receipts at this Office,

from October 1854 to October 1855.

Received for Charter fees \$110.00

" " Constitution, Cards &c. 165.00

" " Per Centage 671.31

\$946.31

Amount paid Gr. Treas. (see his Rept.) 946.31

For the correctness of the above, I submit for

examination my Books and Papers.

Fraternally submitted in L. P. & F.

A. M. GORMAN, G. S.

Raleigh, Oct. 20, '55.

The Battle of King's Mountain.

BY RICHARD EVERETT.

We marched to the Cowpens, Campbell was there,
Shelby, Cleveland, and Colonel Sevier:
Men of renown, sir, like lions, so bold,
Like lions undaunted, ne'er to be controlled.
We set out on our march that very same night,
Sometimes we were wrong, sometimes we were right;
Our hearts being run in true liberty's mould,
We valued not hunger, wet, weary, nor cold.
On the top of King's mountain the old rogue we
found.

And, like brave heroes, his camp did surround,
Like lightning the flashes, like thunder the noise,
Our rifles struck Tories with sudden surprise.
—Our song.

The ballad from which the above lines
were taken, is called "The Battle of King's
Mountain," and sixty years ago it was a
very popular song throughout the Southern
States; for the victory to which it refers
was long a theme for song and story among
the backwoodsmen of Virginia and the
Carolinas.

In a previous sketch we have noticed
the defeat of General GATES at Camden,
and the dispersion of his army. Two days
after this event, Gen. SUMTER was defeated
by Colonel TARLETON, and British swayed
seemed firmly established in the Carolinas.
CORNWALLIS rested his main army at Cam-
den, while he sent out small detachments
to subdue certain districts where the pa-
triot were endeavoring to raise militia.—
Major FERGUSON, a British officer of
great bravery and ability, with some two
hundred and fifty men, British and loyalists,
was sent towards the mountain region of
South Carolina with orders to disperse all
rebels and capture their arms and stores.

FERGUSON started upon his expedition,
and failing to surprise the American Col.
CLARK, with his militia, crossed Broad
River and encamped near what is now the
village of Rutherford, in North Carolina.
Having been reinforced several times, his
command now numbered over one thousand
men. The Tories of his army soon com-
menced their marauding, plundering attacks
upon the defenceless people. The track of
the British army was marked by desolated
fields and blazing dwellings, while murder
and outrage occurred daily. To such an
extent were these enormities carried, that
the people became almost frantic with in-
dignation. The voices of murdered women
and children, shrieking, seemingly, for re-
venge, and at last the day came.

Several prominent patriots began to rally
the Mountain Men, without any definite
plan at first, except to the enemy.
At length there was a meeting between
Col. CAMPBELL, of Virginia; CLAYLAND,
SHELBY, SEVIER, and McDOWELL, of North
Carolina; and LACY, HILL, and others,
of South Carolina. They deliberated and
formed plans to put an end to the outrages
then going on, and to capture or defeat
FERGUSON and his force. Their delibera-
tions resulted in decisive steps, for on the
25th of September they assembled at
Watauga the following forces: Col. CAMP-
bell, with four hundred men, from Vir-
ginia; Col. ISAAC SHELLEY, with two hun-
dred and forty men, from Sullivan county,
North Carolina; Lieutenant Colonel JOHN
SEVIER, with two hundred and forty men,
also from North Carolina; Col. McDOWELL,
with one hundred and sixty men. On the
27th this body of militia began to march
in pursuit of FERGUSON, and on the 30th it
was reinforced by Col. CLAYLAND, with
three hundred and fifty men; and soon after
by Col. WILLIAMS, with four hundred more
from South Carolina.

This force was purely militia—riflemen
—unaccustomed to parading or marching
in companies, and carrying no colors. They
were brave men, rendered more determined
and revengeful by the sufferings endured
from the Tories of FERGUSON. A coun-
cil of war being called, it was resolved to
pursue the English army and attack it
wherever and whenever found.

On the 6th of October, the militia army
encamped within thirty miles of FERGU-
SON'S position. Col. CAMPBELL, in the
absence of any general officer, was chosen
commander-in-chief, and by his advice, nine
hundred of the best men, mounted, were
sent off that night, while the balance of
the force was to come on after a few hours
of rest. Our readers must remember that
this was no regularly organized army.—
Each detachment recognized its own com-
mander in preference to any other. The
men were all expert riflemen, and a majority
of them carried knives and tomahawks.—
They were brave, rash, careless frontiers-
men, to whom war was a pastime. They
carried no baggage, no military stores, de-
pending upon their rifles for food. Veni-
son, wild turkeys, and various descriptions
of game furnished them meat, and the bub-
bling spring or purling brook supplied their
drink. They were panting for battle.—
Bands of British dragoons had scourged their
country and made it a scene of desolation.
Their Tory enemies had burned farm-houses,
destroyed stock, plundered farms, and mur-
dered their women and children. These
outrages served to fire their hearts with
desperation. All that night the band of
nine hundred men marched on. At day-
light, they rested four hours on the banks
of a wild creek which rises in the moun-
tainous region of North Carolina. Here,
arms were put in readiness, ammunition
prepared, and arrangements made for the
fight. No man thought of defeat. They
had determined to conquer or leave their
bones upon the sandy soil, an offering to
the cause of Freedom. About 3 o'clock
on the afternoon of October 17th, 1780,
the little army came in sight of FERGU-
SON'S camp. Aware that he had no ar-
tillery, the Americans approached within
a short distance of his position, and formed
for the attack.

The British army, consisting of near
twelve hundred men, Regulars and Tories,
was encamped on a wooded ridge of land,
called King's Mountain, the whole force
being concentrated upon a round knoll,
upon which scrub oaks, laurel, and beach
trees were thinly scattered. The British

commander stood like a stag at bay. He
could do nothing but fight or surrender,
and like a true Briton, he scorned the lat-
ter alternative, although it was proposed
by some of the Tory officers. He formed
his army in a hollow square, facing the
enemy on every side, and awaited their as-
sault—and it was not long delayed.

The Americans